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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

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FOLLOWING REPEAT DAMASCUS 2753 ACTION SECSTATE 4 MAY 6.

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S E C R E T DAMASCUS 2753

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PASS SECRETARY FROM MURPHY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, SY

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR BROWN'S TALKS IN LEBANON

REF: SECTO 11285

1. SUMMARY:

ACCORDING PRESIDENT'S POLITICAL ADVISOR DAOUDI,
SYRIA HOPE LEBANESE ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD MAY 8
BUT CONSIDERS THIS UNLIKELY.
WHILE HE PARTICULARLY CRITICIZED JUMBLATT FOR CONTINUED

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OBSTRUCTIONISM, HE HAD NOTHING GOOD TO SAY ABOUT ANY LEBANESE

OR PALESTINIAN ELEMENTS ACTIVE IN BEIRUT. SAID SYRIA PLANS NO NEW POLITICAL INITIATIVE BUT WILL BE RECEIVING FURTHER PALESTINIAN AND LEBANESE DELEGATES IN COMING DAYS. HE GAVE NO HINT OF ANY SYRIAN PLANS TO MOVE FURTHER FORCES ACROSS BORDER OR TO MAKE DEEPER DEPLOYMENT WITHIN LEBANON. SAID PRESIDENT PLANS RECEIVE ME IN NEXT FEW DAYS TO HEAR OUR THOUGHTS ON PEACE PROCESS. END SUMMARY

2. ADVISED DAOUDI MAY 4 THAT AMBASSADOR BROWN'S RETURN TO BEIRUT HAD OCCURRED AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED FOLLOWING HIS WEEK'S CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON. NOTED BROWN WOULD REMAIN UNTIL AMBASSADOR MELOY'S ARRIVAL WHICH WE ANTICIPATE IN NVER NEAR FUTURE.

3. DAOUDI ASKED IF BROWN HAD RETURNED CARRYING SPECIAL U.S. INITIATIVE FOR SOLUTION OF LEBANESE CRISIS AS VARIOUS AREA COMMENTATORS HAVE ALLEGED. REPLIED IN NEGATIVE, SAYING THAT BROWN WOULD BE STRESSING IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING CEASEFIRE AND MOMENTUM TOWARDS RESOLUTION OF PRESENT POLITICAL IMPASSE. DREW JAOUDI'S ATTENTION TO PRESS STATEMENT MADE BY SAEB SALAM FOLLOWING LATTER'S MEETING WITH BROWN (BEIRUT 3936, PARA 2 WHICH SUMS UP THEIR CONVERSATION SAYING BROWN'S "ARRIVAL NOW IS TO CONTINUE WHAT HE STARTED WHEN HE BEGAN HIS FIRST VISIT, THAT IS TO HELP SYRIAN INITIATIVE.")

4. DAOUDI THEN SAID THAT SYRIA HOPED ELECTIONS WOULD BE HELD AS PROJECTED ON MAY 8 BUT THOUGHT IT UNLIKELY. HE DWELT AS HE HAJ DURING APRIL 27 MEETING ON JUMBLATT'S TROUBLE-MAKING ROLE BUT NOTED IT WOULD BE UNFAIR TO SINGLE OUT ANY ONE PARTY IN LEBANESE CONTEXT AS SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR PRESENT IMPASSE. ADDED HARSH WORDS ABOUT CHAMOUN'S BEHAVIOR AND LABELED LAST WEEK'S CHRISTIAN SHELLING OF DUHR SHUWAYR AS HEIGHT OF STUPIDITY, REMINISCENT OF PHALANGE ATTACKES IN JANUARY OF KARANTINA CAMP.

5. ASKED WHAT POLITICAL CONTACTS WERE UNDERWAY BETWEEN DAMASCUS AND BEIRUT, DAOUDI SAID THAT A SENIOR PALESTINIAN DELEGATION WAS EXPECTED SHORTLY BUT HE DID NOT KNOW ITS SECRET

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COMPOSITION. VARIOUS LEBANESE PERSONALITIES HAD ALSO REQUESTED ASAD SEE THEM URGENTLY. ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY PROSPECT FOR TRAVEL TO BEIRUT BY SYRIAN POLITICAL MEDIATORS, DAOUDI REPLIED THIS HAD BEEN UNDER CONSIJERATION IN PRESIDENCY BUT TO BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE NO DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN. HE PERSONALLY THOUGHT SUCH TRAVEL UNLIKELY IN COMING DAYS AND THAT SYRIA WOULD WAIT TO SEE WHETHER ELECTIONS OCCUR MAY 8 BEFORE UNDERTAKING FURTHER POLITICAL INITIATIVES. HE SPOKE

REGRETFULLY OF THE PROPAGANDA EXCHANGES OF THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS BETWEEN FONMIN KHADDAM AND JUMBLATT WHICH HAD IN HIS OPINION ONLY COMPLICATED THE POLITICAL PICTURE. (COMMENT, DAOUDI IS NOT ONE KHADDAM'S ADMIRERS.)

6. DAOUDI COMMENTED SYRIA APPRECIATED THE PALESTINIAN RELUCTANCE TO TAKE SIDES WITH ANY ARAB PARTY. HE THOUGHT IT IMPORTANT THAT PALESTINIANS KEEP THEIR DISTANCE AND WITHHOLD THEIR ACTIVE SUPPORT FROM VARIOUS LEBANESE CONTENDERS FOR POWER. THIS IS WHAT ARAFAT HAD ASSURED ASAD PLO WOULD DO DURING THEIR LAST MEETING HERE APRIL 16. BUT THE PALESTINIANS, LIKE THE MULTITUDINOUS LEBANESE DELEGATIONS, SAY ONE THING IN DAMASCUS AND THEN TEND TO BEHAVE DIFFERENTLY ONCE BACK IN BEIRUT. HIS PERUONAL ASSESSMENT, HOWEVER, WAS THAT THE JUMBLATT-PALESTINIAN BOND HAD BEEN WEAKENED IN THE PAST WEEKS AND THAT SYRIA WOULD WORK TO SEE THERE WAS NO REVERSAL IN THAT PROCESS.

7. DAOUDI RETURNED AGAIN TO JUMBLATT'S ROLE NOTING THAT EVEN WITHOUT PALESTINIAN SUPPORT NO ONE COULD COUNT ON JUMBLATT'S REFRAINING FROM STIMULATING FURTHER FIGHTING GIVEN THE FINANCIAL AND MORAL SUPPORT HE WAS GETTING FROM "OTHER ARABS."

8. I NOTED THAT BOTH JUMBLATT AND CHAMOUN HAD MADE STATEMENTS LAST WEEK TO EFFECT ELECTION OF LEBANESE PRESIDENT ICOULD NOT BE CARRIED OUT UNDER SYRIAN GUN BARRELS. DAOUDI SMILED AND COMMENTED ONLY THAT, "DESPITE JUMBLATT'S CHARM," HE THOUGHT IT UNLIKELY UYRIA WOULD BE WITHDRAWING ITS FROCES FROM THEIR PRESENT POSITIONS IN THE COMING DAYS.

9. AT CONCLUSION, DAOUDI SAID PRESIDENT WANTED RECEIVE ME IN VERY NEAR FUTURE TO HEAR OUR THOUGHTS ON THE PEACE
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PROCESS AND AREA DEVELOPMENTS GENERALLY. HE CONFIRMED THAT ASAD HAD DICTATED THE QUESTIONS DAOUDI HAD POSED APRIL 27 ("WHAT HAS BEEN DONE ON THE AMERICAN SIDE EITHER WITH ISRAELI LEADERS OR IN VARIOUS OTHER QUARTERS REGARDING ME CRISIS. WHAT HAVE BEEN RESULTS OF US CONTACTS?") (DAMASCUS 2578).

10. COMMENT: WHILE DAOUDI IS A CAGEY DIPLOMAT AND NOT ABOUT TO LET SLIP ANYTHING RE SYRIAN MILITARY INTENTIONS, HE GAVE ABSOLUTELY NO HINT THAT SYRIA WAS COMTEMPLATING ADDITIONAL TROOP MOVEMENT INTO LEBANON OR DEEPER DEPLOYMENT OF ITS UNITS ALREADY ACROSS THE BORDER.

11. IN ANTICIPATION OF MEETING WITH ASAD WITHIN THESE NEXT TWO OR THREE DAYS, PLEASE ADVISE IF THERE ANY SPECIAL MESSAGE YOU WISH TO PASS BEYOND AGREED TALKING POINTY. THOUGHT

I MIGHT TAKE OCCASION MENTION TO PRESIDENT FAVORABLE
IMPRESSIONS WHICH SENATOR JAVITS HAD GIVEN ISRAELIS
OF HIS CONTACTS WITH ASAD AND OTHER ARAB LEADERS WHICH
EMPHASIZED HE, JAVITS, FOUND NO APPETITE FOR WAR AMONG ARAB
LEADERSHIP WITH WHOM HE HAD SPOKEN, THAT ARAB LEADERS WERE
RATIONAL MEN PREPARED TO ACCEPT EXISTENCE OF STATE OF
ISRAEL AND THAT TIME WAS RIPE FOR MOVEMENT ON OVERALL
PEACE SETTLEMENT (TEL AVIV 2892).MURPHY UNQTE SISCO

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